



# COLLIER HERITAGE FOUNDATION

DISSEMINATING COLLIER FAMILY GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION

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## More Collier Coat of Arms

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MARCH 28, 2016 7:44 PM \ [2 COMMENTS](#) \ [BY COLLIERHERITAGE](#) \ [EDIT](#)



Collier Coat of Arms painted by Tiffany & Co. of New York in 1919.

Our post of March 12, 2015 (see post "Coat of Arms") focused on the research that revealed Colliers are entitled to two different Coats of Arms. The one selected as the family crest by J. C. Collier is used as the logo for Collier Heritage Foundation. In 1919, Tiffany & Co. of New York was commissioned by

D. C. Collier to create a painting of the selected Coat of Arms. The resulting painting, with its brilliant colors, is shown above. A letter from Tiffany, dated 1929, remarks on the painting and describes the significance of the various features on the crest. For those interested in history, the dark man at the top represents conflicts (presumably involving Colliers) with Saracens (Muslim Arabs) during the Crusades. Here are two Tiffany letters that discuss the Coat of Arms.

April 18th. 1919.

Tiffany & Co.,  
New York City

Gentlemen:

In further reference to your letter of Oct. 16th. 1918, would say that we have completed genealogy search of the Collier records and have identified the following arms as belonging to our family.

We find that we can use either of two different arms granted to our family at different times. We would like for you to send us a sketch in the correct color of each one of these so that we can decide which one we want. We would want a hand-colored picture of arms as well as a steel dye together with stationery etc.

Please note the following was granted Frances Collier of Stone -- dated 1623 Sable, a Cross pattee fitchee. Crest a Cross pattee fitchee between two expanded wings, all or.

Or the following granted to Robert Collier of Darlaston and Stone, dated 1583, argent, on a Chevron Azure, between three Demi Unicorns Courant Gules as many acorn slips or. Crest a Demi-Moore Affrontee proper, with rings in his ears or holding in his Dexter hand an oak branch fructed gold.

Awaiting prompt information from you. I am,

Yours respectfully,

D. C. Collier.

DCC:VB



TIFFANY & CO.  
NEW YORK.

July 8th 1926.

Mr. D. C. Collier,  
Barnesville, Ga.

Dear Sir:

Our charge for engraving a die of the Collier arms like the arms we painted in 1919, of a suitable size for stationery, and setting it in a lever press for individual use, would be \$85. However, this is not the best way to put the arms on paper, as high class results cannot be obtained in this way. The proper way is to have a die engraved such as we estimated on in our letter of June 26th and let us emboss it on such paper as you wish. Samples of papers with prices of stamping were sent you with our letter.

The following are the emblematical meanings, real or fanciful, which writers on heraldry give to charges such as those which occur on the Collier shield.

Argent (silver of white) denotes charity and a clear conscience.

The blue chevron means loyalty, truth, protection, and indicates the performance of some notable act of faithful service, or the erection of a church, or the building of a fortress.

The unicorn was introduced by the Saxons into Britain on one of their standards, and was later selected as a supporter for the Scottish arms, and now is one of the supporters of the royal arms of Great Britain. It is an emblem of strength and the guardian of virtue.

The oak signifies antiquity and strength. The acorn has the same meaning and being of gold denotes also generosity and greatness of mind.

The demi-negro or black-a-moor refers to conflicts with the Saracens during the crusades.

Respectfully,

Tiffany & Co.

Added in Response to Comments

*The dark figure with earrings at the top of the Collier Coat of Arms usually generates questions. The figure has nothing to do with Afro-Americans in North America. In fact, according to the research*

*contracted by J. C. Collier, this particular Coat of Arms was awarded to Robert Collier of Darleston and Stone by Queen Elizabeth I in 1583 – before the founding of Jamestown and pre-dating the introduction of slaves in the Colony of Virginia. The figure instead has its meaning in the struggle against Muslims in the Middle Ages.*

*The spread of Islam through military conquests began with Muhammad in the 7th century. In 711, Muslim forces from North Africa, called Moroccans or Moors by Europeans, began their conquest of the Iberian Peninsula, which is modern day Spain and Portugal. These “Moors” were of dark complexion, and the term came to be used synonymously with “negro”. Similarly, the term Saracen, which originally referred to certain desert-dwellers in Arabia, eventually was used for any Muslim Arab.*

*Muslims claimed Jerusalem as one of their sacred cities and controlled it throughout much of the Middle Ages. The Crusades were waged at the urging of various Popes to retake the Holy Land from Muslims. At the same time, Christian forces were in constant ebb and flow battle to repel the Muslim invasion of Europe.*

*So, “demi-negro” means the upper half of a dark man, and “black-a-moor” simply means what is says, a black Moor or Moroccan. The appearance on the crest suggests one Collier ancestor successfully engaged the Moors and came out victorious.*

POSTED IN: [COAT OF ARMS](#)

## 2 Thoughts on “More Collier Coat of Arms”



Jan Rhodes

on [March 28, 2016 at 8:43 pm](#) said:

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Interesting stuff!

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Rebecca Page

on [March 28, 2016 at 9:06 pm](#) said:

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Need some explanation of The Moore.

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